

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MINUTES

OF THE

Sixtieth Annual Session

OF THE

Alabama Baptist Association,

*Bethany Church, Collirene, Lowndes Co.,*

*October 10-13, 1879.*

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SIXTIETH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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Pursuant to adjournment, the delegates from the churches composing the Alabama Baptist Association met at Bethany church, Colli-  
rene, Lowndes county, on Friday, October 10th, 1879. The Intro-  
ductory Sermon was preached by Eld. B. H. Crumpton; text,  
Eph. ii:20.

After a recess of one hour, the delegates were called to order by  
the Moderator. The letters from the churches were read and dele-  
gates enrolled, as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Centre Ridge—S. W. Lide. No letter.

Town Creek—W. W. Hardy, J. L. Bailey, E. W. Hardy.

Bethany—E. F. BABER, D. Rast, H. W. Caffey.

Sister Springs—J. M. SMOKE, Jack Day, Henry Day.\*

Elim (Autauga)—A. L. Haralson, C. H. Morgan.

Pleasant Hill—*T. E. Williams*, J. H. Hickson, J. S. Catts.

Shiloh—Jere Johnson, B. D. Crum, D. B. Edwards.\*

SECOND DISTRICT.

New Bethel—E. P. Hamilton, G. O. Bruner, P. M. Bruner.\*

Benton—J. F. Gresham,\* D. Pierce,\* J. C. Hill.\*

Steep Creek—G. W. McQUEEN, R. Meadows, W. R. Relfe.

Hayneville—

Bethel—J. M. FORTUNE, M. BISHOP, W. P. Rice, A. J. Steele, S.  
S. Bishop.

Mt. Gilead—James Bryant, R. B. Hardy, M. H. Traylor.  
 Ash Creek—A. Edwards, Jesse Robertson, E. Lyon.\*  
 Hopewell—D. LEE, J. L. HINSON, C. A. Gunn.  
 Good Hope—R. E. Peagler, G. W. Buckhaults.\*

## THIRD DISTRICT

Salem—G. W. Bayzer, Daniel Loper,\* Allen Ward.\*  
 Autaugaville—Letter and funds.  
 Montgomery, First—J. B. HAWTHORNE, J. W. Hale, John Bullock,\* R. H. Molton.\*  
 Montgomery, Adams St.—J. A. HOWARD, A. F. Childers.  
 Liberty—  
 Union—T. E. MORGAN, J. T. DAVIDSON, A. L. Nichols.  
 Mt. Lebanon—F. M. Sullivan. No Letter.  
 Pine Level—E. J. Harris, J. H. Dickson,\* N. Pitts.\*  
 Unity—Letter and money.  
 Elim (Montgomery)—W. G. Worrell, W. T. McGaugh,\* W. R. Taylor.\*  
 Ramah—B. A. JACKSON, J. L. SAMPEY, J. W. Wayne.

## FOURTH DISTRICT.

Greenville—B. H. CRUMPTON, T. C. Watts,\* J. M. Thigpen,\*  
 Thos. Boyet,\* John Gamble.\*  
 Philadelphia—  
 Antioch—A. Whittle.  
 Damascus—W. C. AVANT,\* H. Roach, F. M. Cranford.  
 Hickory Grove—W. P. McQueen, J. C. Fonville,\* D. S. Hurst.\*  
 Macedonia—F. E. May, S. A. McMeans,\* Jas. Fail.\*  
 New Ebenezer—  
 Bethesda—J. T. Boyd,\* P. H. Stevens,\* Jas. Watson.\*

On motion, the present officers of the Association were re-elected by acclamation, viz: - David Lee, Moderator (34th term); E. F. Baber, Clerk; T. C. Watts, Treasurer. (The Moderator stated that he has been a member of the Association forty-six years, and had failed to attend but one session during that time.)

The Moderator announced the following Committees, to report at this session:

On Religious Exercises—W. P. Rice, G. W. Bayzer, A. Whittle, and the deacons of Bethany church.

[Ordnained Ministers in SMALL CAPS; Licentiates in *italics*; Absentees \*.]

On Documents—B. A. Jackson, J. A. Howard, W. G. Worrell, Jere Johnson, W. W. Hardy.

On State of Religion in the Churches—B. H. Crumpton, T. E. Williams, J. L. Bailey, S. S. Bishop, M. H. Traylor.

On Finance—J. H. Hickson, E. J. Harris, W. P. McQueen.

Auditing Committee—J. M. Smoke, C. A. Gunn.

And the following to report at the next session :

On Missions—B. H. Crumpton, T. E. Morgan, B. D. Crum, R. Meadows, A. Edwards.

On Sabbath-schools—J. L. Sampey, Chairman ; H. W. Caffey, R. M. Burt, J. H. Dickson, J. M. Thigpen. (To prevent confusion the names of this Committee are here inserted so as to conform to the subsequent action of the Association ; page 10 CLERK.)

On Education—J. B. Hawthorne, M. Bishop, G. W. McQueen, E. W. Hardy, C. H. Morgan.

On the call for Correspondents, the following were reported and received :

From Unity Association—Rev. N. Thomason.

Cahaba Association—T. S. Bowen.

Ala. Baptist State Convention—J. Haralson, President.

State Mission Board—Eld. T. M. Bailey, Cor. Secretary.

Home Mission Board—Eld. J. H. Kinnebrew, Agent.

Pine Barren Association—J. T. Posey.

Correspondents were returned, as follows :

To Pine Barren Association—B. H. Crumpton, M. Bishop, B. D. Crum.

Bethlehem Association—B. H. Crumpton, J. M. Fortune.

Salem Association—B. A. Jackson, E. J. Harris.

Centennial Association—J. L. Sampey, E. J. Harris, E. F. Baber, J. B. Hawthorne, J. A. Howard.

Unity Association—G. W. McQueen, C. H. Morgan.

Cahaba Association—Jere Johnson, E. F. Baber.

Zion Association—W. C. Avant.

Delegates to State Convention—Elds. J. L. Sampey, T. E. Morgan, M. Bishop, J. M. Smoke, T. E. Williams, and Brethren E. P. Hamilton, W. G. Worrell, F. M. Sullivan, F. E. May, A. Whittle.

Eld. W. B. Crumpton presented, through the Clerk, a file of the Minutes of this Association from 1837 to 1851 ; for which the body returned thanks.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported as follows for to-morrow :

Prayer meeting at the church at 9 o'clock ; Eld. J. H. Kinnebrew to preach at the colored church at 11 a. m. ; Eld. J. L. Sampey at the same place at 2 p. m.

Adjourned till 9½ o'clock to-morrow. Prayer by Eld. Kinnebrew.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9½ O'CLOCK.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Minutes of yesterday read and corrected.

On motion, the appointments for preaching to-day were recalled.

Eld. Crumpton, from Committee on Education, made a report, which, after remarks by Brethren Haralson, Hawthorne, Howard, Crumpton, and others, was adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

It is to be regretted that, even yet, there is decided want of earnest conviction of the importance of this subject. Too many value education only by its immediate results in dollars and dimes, instead of its elevating, refining and moralizing effects. This, with many, arises from avarice ; with some few, perhaps, from actual defects in our systems of education ; but with still another class, from *imaginary* defects. But, as this opposition can be removed only by education itself, we dismiss this part of the subject with the suggestion that ministers, and all public men, should inculcate a love of, and thirst for, mental improvement, commensurate with the public, as well as Scriptural, demand for the cultivation of all God-given talents.

What is education ? It comprehends physical, mental, moral, financial and domestic training. It would be improper to enlarge on the *nature* of education in a report, even were we disposed to do so.

Who should receive it ? Every boy and girl, young man and woman, who has, or *can have* it in his or her power to obtain it ; but most especially would we insist upon thorough male training, as it is so much neglected, and boys are to become the public characters who shape government and public morals. Those who are preparing for the ministry, not only from the growing demand for a higher order of ministerial talent, but from positive Scripture requirement to "study," and express Scripture qualification for the work—"aptness to teach"—should, above all others, be educated as far as possible. We are happy to observe a growing desire on the part of older ministers to see others "increase," though it may result in their "decrease." We feel assured that, so far from rendering one incapable of simplicity, as is often thought, education is the *only* way to effect simplicity.

The practical question is, What can, or ought we to do as a denomination in regard to this subject? We certainly have as fine a male college in our State as can be found anywhere (Howard, at Marion); also several female institutions of learning. Thus much done, we *ought* to, and *can*, patronize them, and give them our endorsement and support. Indeed, we ought to feel proud of our schools and colleges, and speak favorably of them to others, and thus advertise them and strengthen their reputation.

Ministerial Education ought to be made one of the principal enterprises of our Association. There are constantly coming to us men burdened with a conviction of duty to preach the "glorious Gospel of the blessed God," and thirsting for mental culture to render them more efficient ministers, but who are unable to accomplish this of themselves. What can we do but educate them? Therefore,

*Resolved, 1st,* That there should be raised in this Association an Educational fund for Ministerial Education, which shall be loaned to such applicants as may be selected as beneficiaries of this body, without interest, until said beneficiary becomes able to return the amount loaned, without serious embarrassment.

*Resolved, 2d* That there shall be an Educational Board appointed, consisting of five persons, namely: The Moderator of the Association, and four other brethren selected by a Committee of four—one from each District of the Association—to be appointed by the Moderator, and report at present session; and said Board shall be empowered to examine applicants for benefactions, adopt such as in their judgment may be proper, and disburse funds as may be necessary, and report at each session of this body.

*Resolved, 3d,* That notes be required from applicants, bearing on their face such conditions as will not allow them, under any circumstances, to be subject to litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. CRUMPTON, Chm'n.

On motion, the regular order was suspended to allow Eld. Hawthorne to take a collection for Ministerial Education. The following was the result: *Cash*—G. W. McQueen, \$10; D. Lee, \$10; Ladies' Aid Society Bethany church, \$5; E. J. Harris, \$1.25; E. C. Dunklin, \$10; J. W. Hale, \$5; W. P. McQueen, \$2; C. A. Gunn, \$1; Mrs. J. R. Dudley, \$2.50; collection, \$19.65. *Pledges*—Montgomery, First, \$25; Montgomery, Adams St., \$25; Greenville church, \$5; Ash Creek, \$10; Bethany, \$10; Macedonia, \$10; Mt. Lebanon, \$5; S. S. Bishop, \$10; E. J. Harris, \$1.25; J. W. Robinson, \$5; J. B. Hawthorne, \$10; J. A. Howard, \$5; J. M. Fortune, \$5. Total, \$192.65.

The Committee to nominate a Board of Education was appointed,

viz.: J. B. Hawthorne, B. H. Crumpton, H. W. Caffey, M. Bishop.  
Adjourned for one hour. Prayer by Eld. Howard.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Prayer by Rev. N. Thomason. The Committee appointed for the purpose, recommended the following brethren to compose the Board of Education: Elds. D. Lee, J. M. Fortune, G. W. McQueen, and Brethren R. M. Burt and W. P. Rice; which was adopted by the Association.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported as follows for tomorrow (Sunday):

Sabbath-school exercises at 9½ o'clock; J. Haralson and Eld. T. M. Bailey.

At 11½ o'clock, Missionary Sermon, by Eld. D. Lee (appointed last session).

At 2 p. m., Eld. J. H. Kinnebrew.

To preach at next session—Introductory Sermon, Eld. J. W. Orme; alternate, Eld. J. M. Fortune. Missionary Sermon, Eld. T. M. Bailey; alternate, Eld. B. A. Jackson.

Eld. Lee was, at his own request, excused from preaching tomorrow, and the Committee were instructed to supply his place. Eld. Hawthorne was selected.

Eld. Crumpton called attention to the fact that Eld. J. M. Smoke is in need of more books to better qualify himself for the work of the ministry, but is unable to purchase them, and suggested that aid be given him now. On motion of Eld. Jackson, business was suspended to allow Eld. Crumpton to make a collection for the purpose indicated. Result, \$28 cash; Ladies' Benev. Society, Town Creek church, pledge \$5. Total, \$33.

No member of the Committee on Missions, appointed last session, being present, another was appointed, viz: Elds. McQueen, Howard and Fortune.

Eld. Hawthorne presented a report on State Missions, which, after remarks by Bro. Jonathan Haralson, and Elds. Bailey and Hawthorne, was adopted:

#### REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The work of the State Mission Board has been continued with unabated vigor. During the past associational year five more laborers have been put in the field. Twelve men, with the Corresponding



Secretary, are now laboring in thirty-six Associations. By the labor of these devoted men, numbers of churches that were almost extinct have been saved to the denomination. Twelve new churches have been organized, some of them in county-seats and some in railroad towns. The Board is now occupying some important points where flourishing churches once existed, and where there is reason to hope our cause may be re-established. Calls come to the Board from the Tennessee valley to occupy that field, which we hope to do during the conventional year.

That the work is taking firm hold upon our people, is evident from the increase in contributions that have been made for its support at the Associations that have met this fall.

Wherever the work has been prosecuted, an increased interest has been manifested in the education of young ministers. Some Associations are now supporting two at Howard College.

Special attention is called to the fact that one hundred and seventy Sabbath-schools were organized by the missionaries of this Board during the last conventional year.

The work of State Missions, according to the present plan, is no longer an experiment. The blessing of God is upon it. It is doing more to unify and develop the Baptists of Alabama than any other agency in the State. Let our churches, if possible, increase their contributions to this Board.

Accompanying this is the report of the District Evangelist.

J. B. HAWTHORNE, Chm'n.

#### REPORT OF THE DISTRICT EVANGELIST.

##### *To the Alabama Association.*

DEAR BRETHREN: It is gratifying to me to be able to say, that in some localities within your bounds the cause of Christ appears to be in a more hopeful condition than it has been for years past; and the churches that have heretofore been comparatively strong and active, have at least maintained their former position, and some have moved forward. But there is still a great opening for missionary work within your bounds. In some sections the local pastors are too much engaged with their own churches to go to other places that need assistance; and in those localities other denominations are making special efforts to propagate their doctrines. Some of your churches are so located that they can not have a pastor except by the uncertain chance of uniting with some stronger church.

It is important that the pastors of churches should take a practical interest in the missionary work, because then the missionary would not feel it necessary to visit churches that do not need his services, in order to obtain a support. And some brethren, unfortunately, are not inclined to contribute to the support of the missionary unless he preach to them. This ought not so to be.

The following is a report of my work in your bounds during the

associational year. Sermons, 29; addresses, 4; Sabbath-schools organized, 2; Sabbath-school Conventions attended, 1; days labored, 36; miles traveled, 238.

For reasons of a private nature I have been constrained to offer my resignation to the State Mission Board, and will cease to labor as missionary or evangelist in your service. But I am still a believer in the work; my sympathies are heartily with it; and I hope you will continue to co-operate with the State Mission Board in its efforts to strengthen and advance the cause of Christ. I take the liberty to suggest the adoption of a motion or resolution to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

E. F. BABER.

Eld. Bailey asked for contributions for the support of the District Evangelist of the State Board for the ensuing year, with the following result: *Cash*—A Whittle, \$1; E. P. Hamilton, \$5; Mrs. Lydia Powell, \$5. *Pledges*—Town Creek church, \$5; Sister Springs, \$5; Pleasant Hill, \$10; Shiloh, \$2.50; Hopewell, \$10; Ash Creek, \$5; Steep Creek, \$10; Bethel, \$10; New Bethel, \$5; Mt. Gilead, \$10; Salem, \$5; Union, \$5; Pine Level, \$10; Ramah, \$10; Greenville, \$10; Damascus, \$5; Hickory Grove, \$5; Macedonia, \$5; Ladies' Aid Society Bethany church, \$5; Ladies' Benev. Society Town Creek church, \$5; S. W. Lide, \$5; J. W. Hale, \$10; C. H. Morgan, \$5; H. W. Caffey, \$5; W. P. Rice, \$5; J. W. Robinson, \$2.50; A. Edwards, \$5; W. R. Hardy, \$5; J. W. Wayne, \$2.50; F. E. May, \$2.50; D. Rast, \$5; D. G. Arnold, \$2; D. W. Edwards, \$5; J. H. Hickson, \$5; E. C. Dunklin, \$5; Mrs. Ellen Morgan, \$5. Total, \$197.00.

Bro. T. C. Watts, the Treasurer, not having arrived, Bro. H. W. Caffey was elected Treasurer *pro tem*.

On motion, a Committee on Obituaries was appointed, viz.: Eld. Crumpton, Hawthorne and Sampey; to which the Moderator was added.

Eld. Jackson, from the Committee on Documents, presented a report, which was adopted:

#### REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Pleasant Hill church asks the co-operation of one or two churches to assist her in retaining her pastor.

Ramah church licensed John R. Sampey to preach the Gospel of Christ, and he is now at Howard College preparing for the ministry.

Adams St. church, Montgomery, recommends to your care and consideration our young Brother, Rev. N. Thomasson, and requests

for him your aid to enable him to attend Howard College.

Shiloh church reports the death of their pastor, Eld. C. W. Hare, on the 17th of July last.

Mt. Gilead church reports the death of our venerable brother, Deacon W. B. Haralson, in Selma, May 11th, 1879, at the age of about 80 years.

Steep Creek church reports the death of Deacon B. S. Meadows, and the ordination of W. P. Bullock as deacon; and also invites the next session of this body to be held with them.

Greenville church reports that they have under their supervision two literary schools, in a flourishing condition. The female school numbers 112 pupils, and the male school numbers 50 pupils. In connection with the latter there are five young men studying for the ministry. She also reports the death of Deacon W. Archer.

Respectfully submitted,

B. A. JACKSON, Chm'n.

On motion, the Association voted to hold its next session with Steep Creek church, three miles north of Letohatchee, Lowndes Co.

On motion of Eld. Hawthorne, it was ordered that the money that may be collected to-morrow be equally divided between the Home and the Foreign Mission Boards.

Eld. McQueen, from the Committee on Missions, made a report, which, with an amendment offered by Eld. Sampey, was made the special order for 9 o'clock, Monday morning.

On motion of Bro. Caffey, a committee was appointed to consider and report, on Monday, upon the recommendation of the Baptist State Convention in regard to raising a fund for aged indigent ministers and the indigent families of deceased ministers; Committee: H. W. Caffey, J. W. Hale, A. F. Childers.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by Elder Bishop.

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On Sabbath, services were held in accordance with previous appointments. The collection after the morning sermon, amounted to \$44.15.

#### MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. L. Bailey.

The special order being the report on Missions, Eld. Sampey, by leave, withdrew his proposed amendment, and moved to re-commit the report, which was done.

Eld. Sampey, from the Committee on Sabbath-schools, appointed last session, made a report, which was adopted :

#### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The Sabbath-school cause is growing in some portions of the Association ; in others, it is at a stand-still. Every good thing meets with some opposition. While there are some opponents to Sabbath-schools at the present day, they are not so numerous as they were a few years ago. This should encourage its friends to work more earnestly. Let our motto be, A well-organized school in every church in the bounds of the Association. Two conventions were held in the third district, at which a good deal of interest was manifested ; several important questions were discussed.

I herewith present the report of Bro. J. H. Dickson, Committeeman for the third district.

JAS. L. SAMPEY, Chm'n.

BRETHREN : I submit for your consideration, the following as my work in the third district :

We have held two Sabbath-school Institutes, or Conventions. Our district convention is a permanent organization. I have organized one Sabbath-school. I have written twenty-five letters and twelve postal cards in the interest of the Sabbath-school cause. I have made several Sabbath-school talks. I have sent to *Kind Words* \$11.20 ; to the *Alabama Baptist* 32.00.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. DICKSON.

On motion of Eld. Crumpton, the appointment of the Committee on Sabbath-schools, to report at next session (made on Friday), was reconsidered, and the following was adopted :

That instead of the Committee on Sabbath-schools, appointed on Friday, the Moderator appoint one for each District of the Association, to work for the Sabbath-school cause in their respective districts, and to report at our next session. The said committees being granted the privilege of working for all the interests fostered by the Association. The committee being—

For 1st District, H. W. Caffey ; 2d, R. M. Burt ; 3d, J. H. Dickson ; 4th, J. M. Thigpen. Eld. J. L. Sampey, Chairman.

The report of the Executive Board of the Association was called for, but none was presented.

The Committee on Missions again presented their report, which was adopted :

## REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions, appointed to report this session of the Association, for lack of time cannot make such a report as they would like to offer. We would rather report facts than words as an argument, but we cannot get the facts before us in so short a time.

It is unnecessary to call the attention of this body to the work of the State Mission Board, as you have already heard a report upon that subject. We would, however, urge the importance of greater efforts to sustain and increase its means of evangelizing our own territory and that of the adjoining Associations.

The Home and Indian Missions still call for our support, therefore let us cheerfully render unto them what aid we can.

Foreign Missions, we fear, are being overlooked and neglected by most of our churches; and whilst many more nations are being opened to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ than formerly, and necessarily ought to call for a corresponding increase of contributions, among us, as a people, there seems to be indifference and neglect. To us comes the command, individually and collectively, as Baptists, "Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost." Shall we obey the command of our God, or shall we refuse and rebel?

Your Committee have no knowledge of the Executive Board on Missions having done any thing during the past year.

Respectfully submitted.

G. W. McQUEEN, Chm'n.

Elder Crumpton made a report on Obituaries, which was adopted :

## REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

Your Committee are pained to have to record the death, since the last session of this Association, of one of our members, who bade fair to become one of the brightest luminaries in the ministerial galaxy. We allude to Bro. Ezra C. Plum, a grand-son of our loved and venerable Moderator, who had, perhaps, fondly dreamed or hoped that his mantle should fall on this cherished boy. But alas! at an unexpected hour—even before the ministerial bud had matured into the full-grown flower—were his hopes blasted, and God called our brother to a higher work. While this event bequeathed to surviving relatives, brethren and friends a legacy of bitter grief, to Bro. Plum himself it was but an exchange of the spiritual twilight of earth for the rich light of heaven. His life, from his profession of religion to his death, and the triumph manifested in the hour of dissolution, lead us to "sorrow not as those who have no hope."

Bro. Plum professed religion at fourteen years of age, was licensed to preach in his eighteenth year, and entered Howard College as a beneficiary of the Alabama Association shortly afterward. He was vigorously prosecuting his duties as such when the Master called him.

Modest, truthful, scrupulously, deeply pious; affable, quick to learn, and exceedingly studious, he not only gave promise of *future* usefulness, but even now, "though dead, he yet speaketh," and will still dwell with richest fragrance in the memory of his friends, and his sentiments will be voiced by other tongues. May God over-rule this dark dispensation to the good of his glorious cause.

We subjoin a short extract from the letter of Dr. Murfee, President of Howard College, to the grand-father of our young brother :

"*Dear Bro. Lee* : My heart grieves with you as I pen these sad lines. Our college and our town mourn the loss of your dear grandson, one of the brightest Christians and purest men that God gives to earth. How mysterious are the ways of the Lord !

Our dear brother died this afternoon at 5 o'clock—fell asleep in Jesus. His last words were, "Come, angels, come !" He was perfectly reconciled to death ; said he was ready and willing."

With pain, we also announce the death of Deacons W. B. Haralson, W. Archer and B. S. Meadows.

Bro. Haralson was one of the oldest members of our Association, and a member of Mt. Gilead church. His counsels were always practical and valuable. Deeply interested in all benevolent enterprises, he always gave a helping hand in "every good word and work." He was nearly four score years of age when he died ; and while we shall greatly miss his counsels in our body, we feel assured he has entered the ranks of the redeemed on high.

Deacon Meadows bore a reputation for fidelity to his sacred trust. He was a member of Steep Creek church. It is said he performed the office of deacon well. He was about fifty-two years of age, and leaves a devoted family and a good gospel church to mourn his loss.

Deacon Archer, a member of Greenville church, was also in his eightieth year. Simple and unpretending, prompt and reliable, we feel warranted in saying his place cannot be supplied. In small matters that other men seldom notice, he made the occasion of his grandest labors. The poor, the sick, the children and the pastor will ever feel his absence. Language cannot convey any adequate idea of his character as a deacon. He was a deacon indeed.

We do sympathize most deeply with the bereaved, and deplore the loss of these brethren to the denomination and to the world.

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. CRUMPTON, Chm'n.

The report of the Finance Committee was read and referred to the Auditing Committee :

The Treasurer having been prevented from making his report to this body, the Clerk was authorized to insert it in the Minutes, if received in time.

Eld. Williams presented the report on the State of Religion in the Churches, which was adopted:

### ON STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES.

The Committee on State of Religion in the Churches are happy to report that some of the churches of the Association exhibit their wonted life and activity.

Some have held successful protracted religious exercises, and the Lord has added to them such as shall be saved. For which we give thanks to our kind Heavenly Father.

But from data furnished by the church letters, and from personal knowledge of many of the churches, we are sad to report much coldness, spiritual weakness and unfruitfulness.

Christian brethren of the Alabama Association, why, O! why this coldness, this weakness, this unfaithfulness? Is not the Holy Ghost the principle of life, of warmth and of spiritual power? And is not our Heavenly Father more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him, than an earthly parent is to give good gifts to his children?

Is it not said of Christians, "Ye are the temples of the Holy Ghost?" Is it not said of the primitive Christians, that they were *all* filled with the Holy Ghost? And are we not Christian brethren, every one of us, to-day most cordially invited to a pure *River* of water of life, to drink *without measure, without money, and without price*? Then let every Christian in truth adopt the language—

"Return, O Holy Dove, return,  
Sweet messenger of rest;  
I *hate* the sins that made thee mourn,  
And drove thee from my breast."

Let every Christian disabuse his mind of the error that God arbitrarily limits the gifts and graces of the Spirit. By God's word let him correct his head, open wide his heart, and merge his will into God's will; allowing God to exercise his own prerogative to give to every one severally as He wills, remembering that God gives according to demand, capacity or development; and that development depends upon the use of the means of grace; and the use of the means of grace depends upon the exercise of the human will. Hence, "who-soever *will*, let him take the water of life freely."

Then will our Christians radiate not coldness, but heat; will exhibit not weakness, but power; and then will the world be sweetly compelled to surrender to the Prince of the kings of the earth, and men will be constrained to glorify our God.

Respectfully submitted,  
T. E. WILLIAMS, Chm'n.

Bro. Caffey, from the Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, &c., presented a report, which, after earnest speeches from the breth-

ren commendatory of the benevolent object, was adopted :

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS, &c.

During the session of the Baptist State Convention, held in Birmingham, in July last, it was recommended that all churches composing that body declare it to be one of the benevolent objects of the denomination to foster and make provision for aged and infirm ministers, and their families.

The churches belonging to this Association heartily concur in the propriety and justice of the above measure. Be it therefore

*Resolved,* That the Moderator of this body be requested to appoint a Committee of three, to take steps to raise and disburse any moneys which the liberality of the churches may constrain them to contribute for this purpose, and that said Committee be instructed to report the result of their labors each year to said Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. CAFFEY, Chm'n.

The following Committee was appointed in accordance with the above resolution: J. A. Harris, Greenville; J. W. Hale, Montgomery; H. W. Caffey, Collirene.

Eld. McQueen spoke of Eld. J. L. Dagg, whom he supposed would come within the design of the resolution just adopted. On motion of Eld. Crumpton, business was suspended to allow contributions to be made for Dr. Dagg. Although there were few in the house, and a number of collections had been made, the contributions amounted to 20.65.

Eld. Sampey offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved,* That we recommend the *Alabama Baptist* as a paper worthy of patronage ; and we hail with delight the return of our beloved Bro. J. J. D. Renfroe as one of its editors.

Eld. Sampey offered the following resolution, which was adopted by a rising vote :

*Resolved,* That the thanks of this body be extended to the members of Bethany church, and the citizens of this community, for their kindness and hospitality during our stay with them.

On motion of Eld. Sampey, the sum of \$25 was allowed the Clerk for his services and to pay for mailing the Minutes ; and he was instructed to have such number of the Minutes printed as the remainder of the minute fund will allow.

It was ordered that the Constitution of the Association be printed with the Minutes of this session ; and that the Clerk insert or omit the Rules of Order and Order of Business, at his option.



Eld. Howard moved to appoint a committee to prepare a form of church letter to the Association, to be recommended to the churches for their adoption and use; said form to be printed with these Minutes. Motion adopted, and H. W. Caffey and E. F. Baber were appointed said committee.

There being no further business before the body, the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds," was sung, the parting hand given, and after prayer by the Moderator, the Association adjourned to meet with Steep Creek church, Lowndes county, (three miles north of Letohatchee,) on Friday before the second Sabbath in October. 1879.

E. F. BABER, Clerk,

D. LEE, Moderator.

LIST OF ORDAINED LICENSED MINISTERS IN ALABAMA  
ASSOCIATION.

LICENTIATES IN ITALICS.

NAME.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.
David Lee, . . . . .	Mt. Willing, . . . . .	Lowndes.
M. Bishop, . . . . .	Fort Deposit, . . . . .	"
J. M. Fortune, . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
A. F. Goldsmith, . . . . .	Calhoun, . . . . .	"
G. W. McQueen, . . . . .	Hayneville, . . . . .	"
E. F. Baber, . . . . .	Collirene, . . . . .	"
J. M. Smoke, . . . . .	Benton, . . . . .	"
J. B. Hawthorne, D.D., . . . . .	Montgomery, . . . . .	Montgomery,
J. A. Howard, . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
T. J. Miles . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
B. A. Jackson, . . . . .	Ramer, . . . . .	"
J. L. Sampey, . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
J. W. Orme, . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
Rob't. Blan, . . . . .	Pine Level, . . . . .	"
B. H. Crumpton, . . . . .	Greenville, . . . . .	Butler.
W. C. Avant, . . . . .	Honoraville, . . . . .	Crenshaw.
T. E. Morgan, . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
J. T. Davidson, . . . . .	" . . . . .	"
<i>F. R. Sampey,</i> . . . . .	Marion, . . . . .	Perry.
<i>T. E. Williams</i> . . . . .	Pleasant Hill, . . . . .	Dallas,

# Form of Church Letter

RECOMMENDED FOR USE BY THE CHURCHES.

The Baptist Church of Christ . . . . . to the  
Alabama Baptist Association :

DEAR BRETHREN :—We have appointed as Delegates to your Body . . . . .  
and as Alternates . . . . .

### STATISTICS :

Baptized . . . ; Rece'd by Letter . . . ; by Voucher . . . ; Restored . . . ;  
Dismissed by Letter . . . ; Died . . . ; Excluded . . . ; Increase . . . ; De-  
crease . . . ; Nnber of Members . . .

[Here state whether you have a Sabbath School ; if so, how often it meets, and  
the number of Teachers and Pupils. Whether you have a Prayer Meeting, and  
how often it meets. And whether you have a Missionary Society, &c.]

We send contributions as follows :

For Minutes . . . . .	\$ . . . . .		
Home and Indian Missions, Cash, \$ . . . . .		Voucher, \$ . . . . .	Total, \$ . . . . .
Foreign Missions, . . . . . " \$ . . . . .		" . . . . .	" \$ . . . . .
State Missions, . . . . . " . . . . .		" . . . . .	" . . . . .
Ministerial Education, . . . . . " . . . . .		" . . . . .	" . . . . .
Indigent Ministers Fund, . . . . . " . . . . .		" . . . . .	" . . . . .
For . . . . . " . . . . .		" . . . . .	" . . . . .
" . . . . . " . . . . .		" . . . . .	" . . . . .
" . . . . . " . . . . .		" . . . . .	" . . . . .
Aggregate, ' \$ . . . . .		\$ . . . . .	\$ . . . . .

Of which, \$ . . . . . is to redeem previous pledges for . . . . .  
Pastor . . . , Clerk . . . , Post Office . . . , County . . .

Sabbath Meeting . . .

[Here make brief mention of Revival, Ordination, Licensure, death of Minister  
or Deacon, or other matter of importance.]

By order of Conference, . . . . .

. . . . . Moderator,

. . . . . Clerk.

Date, . . . . .

## CONSTITUTION OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This Union of Churches shall be known and designated by the style and title of the ALABAMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed of Representatives from the Churches in union. Each Church shall be entitled to three Delegates, and for every additional twenty-five members, above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional Delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the Delegates from any Church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by Churches, and in that event, each Church shall be entitled to three votes.

ART. 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and a Clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen. Should any event transpire so as to prevent an annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have power to call a meeting at any time or place, which meeting, when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular annual meeting.

ART. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies, in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority, except what is expressly delegated to her by the Churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. She, nevertheless, claims authority over her own members, the Delegates of the Churches; and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all Churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the Churches, united under the Constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and other means in accordance with that Gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

ART. 5. Newly constituted Churches, or Churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up their Delegates to an annual meeting, with a petition; and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles adopted by this Association.

ART. 6. The Churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of the Delegates number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since the last session, and all other information which the Churches may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches, and paid over through the Committee on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

ART. 9. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulties between Churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 11. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of this Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; Provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the Churches.



## Order of Business.



1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Recess.
4. Organization.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Correspondence.
7. Appoint Sommittees.
8. Report of Executive Board.
9. Report of Committees.
10. Treasurer's Report.
11. Appoint time and place of meeting.
12. Miscellaneous.

## REPORT ON FINANCE.

CHURCHES.	Minutes.....	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	State Miss'ns	Assoc'n Purposes.	State Evangelist.	District Evangelist.	Total .....
Sister Springs.....	1 00								1 00
Town Creek.....	1 75								1 75
Bethany.....	1 50		5 00		15 00				21 50
Pleasant Hill.....	1 00						8 50	5 00	15 50
Shiloh.....	1 00								1 00
Ladies' Ben. So. Town Ch.		9 60	4 00		4 50		6 40		28 50
Ladies' Ben. So. Bethany.		5 00		5 00			22 00	4 00	32 00
Hopewell.....	12 50	5 15					1 70		9 35
Ash Creek.....	1 00	5 00					25 00		31 00
Steep Creek.....	3 00	4 35	3 60		10 00				20 95
Bethel.....	3 00						18 00		21 00
Good Hope.....	2 00								2 00
Mt. Gilead.....	2 00				5 00				7 00
New Bethel.....	2 00				10 45				12 45
Benton.....	1 00								1 00
Elim, (Autauga).....	50								50
Hayneville.....	75	50		50	75				2 50
Ladies' Ben. So. BentonCh		1 00	1 00		2 00				4 00
Ladies' Ben. So. Mt. Gilead					12 00				12 00
Salem.....	2 00				3 10			2 50	7 60
Autaugaville.....	50					1 50			2 00
Ist. Montgomery.....	5 00	50 00	210 00		165 00				430 00
Adam's Street.....	12 50								2 50
Union.....	12 50								2 50
Mt. Lebanon.....	1 50				1 50				3 00
Pine Level.....	1 50	3 30			8 00		12 00		24 80
Unity.....	12 50	8 10	8 10		16 35				35 05
Elim, (Montgomery).....	1 50	12 00	2 50		3 00				9 00
Ramer.....	3 00	12 00			10 50				15 50
Greenville.....	4 00	4 50	2 50	16 75	50 00				77 75
Antioch.....	1 50	1 00	1 00		3 00				6 50
Damascus.....	2 85								2 85
Hickory Grove.....	1 50	3 00	3 00		8 50				16 00
Macedonia.....	2 00								2 00
Bethesda.....	1 50								1 50
Unknown Contributions..						50 00		2 00	52 00
J. L. Hinson.....				5 00				2 50	7 50
J. W. Orme.....							10 00		10 00
J. G. Jones.....							5 00		5 00
Rev. R. Blan.....					5 00				5 00
W. C. Stewart.....						3 00		2 00	5 00
J. A. Stringer.....					5 00				5 00
T. J. Cranford.....						75			75
Mrs. Jas. Jones.....						1 00			1 00
Rev. D. Lee, (pledge).....					10 00				10 00
Cash Collection Saturday..				61 46					61 40
Mrs. Fonville and others..		10 00				4 50			14 50
Sabbath Cash Collections..		22 10	22 05						44 15
Total.....	\$61 65	136 60	262 75	88 65	338 15	60 75	91 06	30 00	1085 65

In addition to the above, the First Church, Montgomery, report, \$300 contributed to aid in building Churches, and \$260 for So. Baptist Theo Seminary; making her total \$960. The contribution for Bro. Smoke's library was \$33; making an aggregate of \$2,108 65.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS	CLERKS' POST OFFICE.	County . . . .	Baptized . . . .	Received by Lettr	Received by Voucher.	Restored . . . .	Dismissed by Letter	Absent without Lettr	Deceased . . . .	Excluded . . . .	Number of Members.	Increase . . . .	Decrease . . . .	Ladies' Benev. So.	Prayer Meetings..	Sabbath Schools.	Teachers . . . .	Scholar . . . .	Teachers' Meetings.	Sabbath Meetings.		
1st DISTRICT.																								
Centre Ridge*	E. J. Forrester.	J. W. Dennis.	Richmond . . . .	D.		2				1		1	75			1	W	W	5	21		2&4		
Town Creek	J. M. Fortune.	T. J. Ellis.	Benton . . . .	D.						5		3	54			1	W	W	5	24		4		
Bethany	J. M. Smoke.	H. W. Hardy		L.						2		2	57				W	W				7		
Sister Springs	J. M. Smoke.	Jared Carter		D.						1		2	12				W	W				1.		
Pleasant Hill.	E. J. Forrester	J. R. Crumpton	Pleasant Hill	D.		5				2		1	44				W	W	4	25		4		
Shiloh.		B. D. Crum.	Mush Creek . . . .	D.						1		1	20				W	W				4		
2d DISTRICT.																								
Hopewell.	D. Lee.	C. A. Gunn	Mt. Willing . . . .	L.	2	6				3		3	112									1&3		
Ash Creek†		A. Edwards	Gordonsville . . . .	L.		2				3		3	43											
Hayneville*		A. Yarnor	Haysville . . . .	L.						3		2	32									3		
Sleep Creek	G. W. McQueen.	J. W. Thomas	Morganville . . . .	L.	7	2				4		2	69			6	W	W	6	25		3		
Bethel	J. M. Fortune	R. M. Burt	Fort Deposit . . . .	L.	4	6				11		3	145			7	W	W	5	75		1,2,4.		
Good Hope.	W. J. Little.	John Peagler	Greenville . . . .	L.	4	1				3		3	34				W	W				1&3		
Mt. Gilend.	J. M. Smoke.	J. W. Robinson	Benton . . . .	L.						3		1	30				W	W	2	12		3		
New Bethel†	J. F. Bruner.	J. F. Lee	Bragg's Store . . . .	L.	11	7				6		2	97			1	W	W				1		
Benton	J. M. Smoke.	J. C. Hill.	Benton . . . .	L.						2		1	14			3	W	W	1	8		2		
Elm (Autauga)		C. H. Morgan.		A.		3				1		1	5				W	W				4		
3d DISTRICT.																								
Saltem	J. W. Orme.	Jos. Aiken.	Montgomery . . . .	M.		3				2		1	30				W	W				2		
Antaugaville.	Jeff Falkner.	O. W. Sheret.	Antaugaville . . . .	M.		14				21		9	429			10	W	W	26	240		2		
1st Montgomery.	J. B. Hawthorne.	W. P. VanDeryver.	Montgomery . . . .	M.	6												W	W				2		
Adams St., Montg'y	J. A. Howard	J. M. Falkner	Montgomery . . . .	M.													W	W				2		
Liberty*	W. C. Orme.	F. M. Nuckolls	Pine Level . . . .	M.									30				W	W	5	30		1		
Union	W. C. Avant.	J. A. Stringer	Honorville . . . .	C.	12							6	90				W	W				4		
Mt. Lebanon*	J. W. Orme.	W. F. Niblett.	Ramer . . . .	M.						3		1	59				W	W	5	75		4		
Pine Level	B. A. Jackson.	N. Pitts.	Pine Level . . . .	M.	10	8				1		1	78				W	W	5	75		4		
Unity	H. C. Tani.	J. H. Booth.	Prattville . . . .	M.	7	1				8		8	59				W	W	60	60		4		
Elm (Montg'y).		W. T. McTeagh.	Montgomery . . . .	M.						5		2	15				W	W				2		
Rama	B. A. Jackson	A. L. Guice.	Ramer . . . .	M.	7							2	81				W	W		25		2		
4th DISTRICT.																								
Greenville	B. H. Crumpton.	J. A. Harris	Greenville . . . .	B.	2	5				8		3	146			4	W	W	13	150		1,2,4.		
Philadelphat*		G. T. Edwards	Argus . . . .	C.									34				W	W				1		
Antioch	M. Bishop.	J. P. Gafford.	Greenville . . . .	B.		7				7		3	56			6						1		
Damascus.	W. C. Avant.	S. F. Address.	Greenville . . . .	B.	13	3				5		3	98									3		
Hickory Grove.	G. W. McQueen.	Asa Dean.	Mt. Carmel . . . .	M.						3		1	38				W	W		50		3		
Macedonia	A. F. Goldsmith.	F. E. May.	Fort Deposit . . . .	L.	10	4				1		1	40			11	W	W				4		
Bethesda	J. W. Orme.	J. T. Boyd.	Ramer . . . .	M.	4	2				2		1	43			3	W	W		55		3		
Total . . . . .					103	79	124	108	1	42	27	2	198	128	45	5							77	875

[\*]Not having sent Letters, the Clerk was governed by the last report. [†]Ash Creek Church has 13 colored members; Benton, 1. [‡]Received 50 members by the dissolution of Cedar Creek Church. Licensed 1.



